



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 287**

February Session, 2010

\* \_\_\_\_SB00287GAE\_\_031010\_\_ \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESSIBLE VOTING FOR VOTERS WITH  
DISABILITIES OR NEEDING ASSISTANCE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

3 The registrars of voters shall, before the day of the election, cause  
4 [the mechanic or mechanics to insert on each machine the ballot labels  
5 corresponding with the sample diagrams provided and to put each  
6 such machine] each voting system approved by the Secretary of the  
7 State for use in the election, including, but not limited to, voting  
8 systems equipped for individuals with disabilities that comply with  
9 the provisions of the Help America Vote Act, P.L. 107-252, as amended  
10 from time to time, to be put in order in every way and set and adjust  
11 the same so that it shall be ready for use in voting when delivered at  
12 the polling place. Such registrars shall cause [the machine so labeled,]  
13 each such voting system to be in order and set and adjusted, to be  
14 delivered at the polling place, together with all necessary furniture and  
15 appliances that go with the same, at the room where the election is to  
16 be held, not later than [six o'clock in the afternoon of the day preceding  
17 the election. Each voting machine shall be furnished with light  
18 sufficient to enable electors while voting to read the ballot labels and  
19 suitable for use by the election officials in examining the counters. A

20 pencil shall also be provided, within each voting machine, for use in  
21 casting a write-in ballot] one hour prior to the opening of the polling  
22 place.

23 Sec. 2. Section 9-264 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

25 [(a)] An elector who requires assistance to vote, by reason of  
26 blindness, disability or inability to write or to read the ballot, may be  
27 given assistance by a person of the elector's choice, other than (1) the  
28 elector's employer, (2) an agent of such employer, [or] (3) an officer or  
29 agent of the elector's union, or (4) a candidate for any office on the  
30 ballot, unless the elector is a member of the immediate family of such  
31 candidate. The person assisting the elector may accompany the elector  
32 into the voting [machine] booth. Such person shall register such  
33 elector's vote upon the [machine] ballot as such elector directs. Any  
34 person accompanying an elector into the voting [machine] booth who  
35 deceives any elector in registering [his] the elector's vote under this  
36 section or seeks to influence any elector while in the act of voting, or  
37 who registers any vote for any elector or on any question other than as  
38 requested by such elector, or who gives information to any person as  
39 to what person or persons such elector voted for, or how [he] such  
40 elector voted on any question, shall be fined not more than one  
41 thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years or both. As  
42 used in this subsection, "immediate family" means the candidate's  
43 spouse, child or parent, or a dependent relative who resides with the  
44 candidate.

45 [(b)] Paper ballots provided by the municipal clerk to the moderator  
46 pursuant to section 9-259 shall be made available for electors with  
47 disabilities in polling places in which a voting machine cannot be  
48 adjusted to allow all necessary parts to be reached from a chair. Such  
49 paper ballots shall be used at the option of the elector with disabilities.  
50 The elector shall announce the elector's name to the checkers who shall  
51 cross the elector's name off the registry list and add it with the elector's  
52 address to the end of the official checklist where it shall be designated

53 "paper ballot for persons with disabilities" or "PBD" and serially  
 54 numbered. After the elector has so announced the elector's name, the  
 55 moderator shall deliver to the elector an absentee ballot and a serially-  
 56 numbered envelope. The elector shall forthwith mark the ballot in the  
 57 presence of the moderator in such manner that the moderator shall not  
 58 know how the ballot is marked. The elector shall fold the ballot in the  
 59 presence of the moderator so as to conceal the markings and deposit  
 60 and seal it in the serially-numbered envelope. The elector shall deliver  
 61 the envelope to the moderator who shall place it in a specially-  
 62 designated depository envelope. The paper ballots thus received shall  
 63 be counted at the next scheduled absentee ballot count in the same  
 64 manner as other absentee ballots. Such ballots so counted shall be  
 65 preserved by placing them in the depository envelopes with the  
 66 regular absentee ballots, and such serially-numbered envelopes shall  
 67 be placed in the depository envelopes with the regular absentee ballot  
 68 envelopes.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	9-247
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	9-264

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*